

4/28/03
#6



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07781.0013

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Stefan HACK et al.) Group Art Unit: 2761
Application No.: 09/609,714) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: June 30, 2000)
For: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION)
SYSTEM AND METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2003
GROUP 3600

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO -1449 Form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art

against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 10, 2003

By: William J. Brogan
William J. Brogan
Reg. No. 43,515

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com